

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman,

My Name is Angela Garza; Kirk Antonio Coleman is my grandson. He was 18 months old when he was killed at the hands of his daycare provider October 29, 2014. What we did not know at the time was she had a previous conviction of child abuse and neglect from 2008. That child is alive today but has many medical issues because of what she did to him. No one knew of this connection and she still counted to watch children. This is why I lobbied with our senate that we needed a law for a child abuse registry in the state of Indiana. I have attached a sheet on Kirks Law and how it took place. I could talk for hours on why this law and all laws that protect children are so important and need to happen. However, with short notice this is what I have for now.

Thank You

Angela Garza

Lovely and devoted Grandma

Kirk's Law

The law is named after our 19-month-old Grandson Kirk Coleman who died in Oct. 2014 at his daycare in New Paris, Indiana. The daycare provider has been charged with causing Kirk's death. was previously convicted of child neglect. This is what stated us to look into why there was not a Child registry in place already.

For someone's name to be added to the registry, an individual would have to be convicted in Indiana of at least one of the following types of crimes: Neglect of a Dependent, Child Selling, Battery Against a Child, as well as any sexual offense committed against a child.

Kirk's Law" will take effect on July 1, 2016. It sets up a Child Abuse Offender Registry that tracks anyone who has ever been convicted in Indiana of child neglect – or physical or sexual abuse of a child.

The Indiana Senate and House both voted unanimously to pass the bill during the recent legislative session.

"For the first time, parents can have ease of mind when they send their kids to daycare knowing that there's no prior convictions and they can rest a little easier.

Indiana is first state in the country to create a Child Abuse Offender Registry. The registry will be searchable and available to the public.

The registry will be maintained by the Division of State Court Administration. The legislation requires that the registry be up and running no later than July 1, 2017.

It is our family's hope that this registry will become a resource to help ensure that no child is left in the hands of someone who will hurt them.

Our family wants to thank Senator Carlin Yoder, Rep. Bob Morris and Rep David Ober for all their hard work and dedication to this bill without them it would not be where it is today.